

GP 1653

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re application of:

Bloom *et al.*

Appl. No. 09/599,452

Filed: June 22, 2000

For: **Rapid Growing Microorganisms
for Biotechnology Applications**



Art Unit: 1653

Examiner: To be assigned

Atty. Docket: 0942.4970001/RWE/BJD

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Letter

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants submit the following documents for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office:

1. Information Disclosure Statement (in duplicate);
2. 3 pages of Form PTO-1449 citing 9 documents;
3. A copy of each of the 9 cited documents; and
4. One return postcard.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian J. Del Buono".

Brian J. Del Buono
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 42,473

Date: Nov. 16, 2000

1100 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

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Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Where the publication date of a listed document does not provide a month of publication, the year of publication of the listed document is sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date so that the month of publication is not in issue. Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not

exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith. It is further understood that the Examiner will consider information that was cited or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in a prior application relied on under 35 U.S.C. § 120. 1138 OG 37, 38 (May 19, 1992).

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No statement or fee is required.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this pleading is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Brian J. Del Buono
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 42,473

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